The LEGO® Builders Club

Bricks 'n Pieces

A newsletter for LEGO® Club members No. 3. Autumn '79

Dear Members,

A lot of you have written to me saying that you cannot find the LEGO sets you want in the shops — especially the LEGOLAND Space Sets.

I'm sorry about this but hope you will have more luck before Christmas.

The trouble is that everyone seems to want LEGO sets and we just cannot keep up with the demand even though we have put far more sets into the shops this year than ever before.

One member asked "why don't you just make more?" That's a very simple question but not quite so simple to answer.

One answer is that we *are* making more. The big LEGO factory in Denmark has done marvels in sending us more than we originally asked for. But packing LEGO sets is much more complicated than you might imagine and takes very much longer than you would believe. Already we have had to give estimates of how many of each of 150 different sets we expect to sell in *Christmas 1980* so that the factory can start planning how many new moulds to order and to tell their suppliers of raw material and packaging how much they are likely to need. And we haven't even got to Christmas 1979 yet!

Anyway, I hope most of you do manage to find the sets you want and that you will have a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

CLIVE NICHOLLS
Club President

A corner of LEGOLAND in Denmark

LEGOLAND is not just a series of model towns like this one, but has cars you drive, boats and a train to ride in, a puppet theatre, a full scale wild West town with pony rides and lots more to do and see.

Birmingham rally an all-time great

Over 2,500 people came to the first Club Rally in Birmingham on 25th August. This was far more than we expected and must have been the greatest gathering of LEGO fans in one place at one time ever. What a fantastic day!

One family flew down from Aberdeen, just for the day. Another came specially from Cork in Ireland and many more drove over 200 miles.

Despite the milling crowds, many members managed to elbow their way through to the piles of LEGO bricks in the big Lecture Hall of the Birmingham Museum and build some super models. The most impressive was a huge church, nearly 1 metre high and almost twice as long. Several families joined together in this project and spent nearly the whole day working on it, finishing it just before the Rally ended.

Luckily the Birmingham Corporation allowed us to use their huge and magnificent Banqueting Suite, in which we managed to serve 3000 cups of tea, 65 gallons of orange squash and thousands of sandwiches and cakes.

Club Rally Day in Birmingham

A glimpse of some members busily at work in the Birmingham Museum before the crowds got so thick you couldn't see the play tables for children.

It looks as though we will have to hold any future Club Rallies in a place the size of the Albert Hall in London in order to fit in the rapidly growing membership.

To LEGOLAND® in Denmark next time?

At the Rally, many members asked if the Club could organise a visit to the fabulous LEGOLAND Leisure Park in Denmark next year.

That really would be fantastic wouldn't it?

Suppose we could charter a big ship to take us on a 3–4 day cruise to Denmark with a full day in LEGOLAND, perhaps over the Spring Holiday in May next year. That really would be a Club Rally to remember!

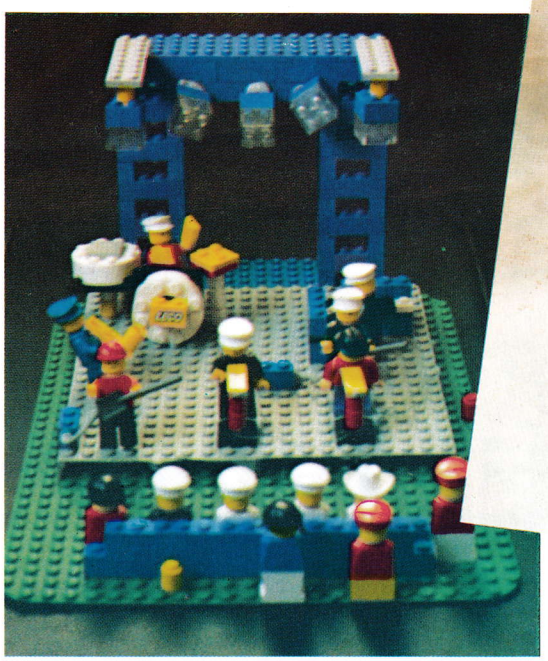
Before we can plan this we need to have some idea of how many people would be likely to go so it would be a great help if you would discuss it with your parents and send back the question slip enclosed, if you feel there is a good chance of your being able to go.

This does not commit you to anything of course, for this is just an idea at this stage. But if we had to limit the numbers who could go, we would naturally give priority to those who were first to say they would be interested.

The cost would probably be around £50 including meals — maybe a bit more for adults and a bit less for children, though that is only a rough guess at this stage.

Our next Newsletter in February 1980 will give full details of the trip, if indeed it can be organised, so we hope you can wait until then, though the suspense will be killing!

Here's hoping . . . . .



LEGOLAND Band

That's the title which David Asch (11) of Newhaven gives to this splendid model of a rock concert. Notice particularly the way the saxophonist is leaning backwards. Very naturalistic.

Diesel Loco

A beautifully detailed model of a British Rail diesel by Paul Webb of Thame. Paul is obviously a train enthusiast as well as a LEGO builder.

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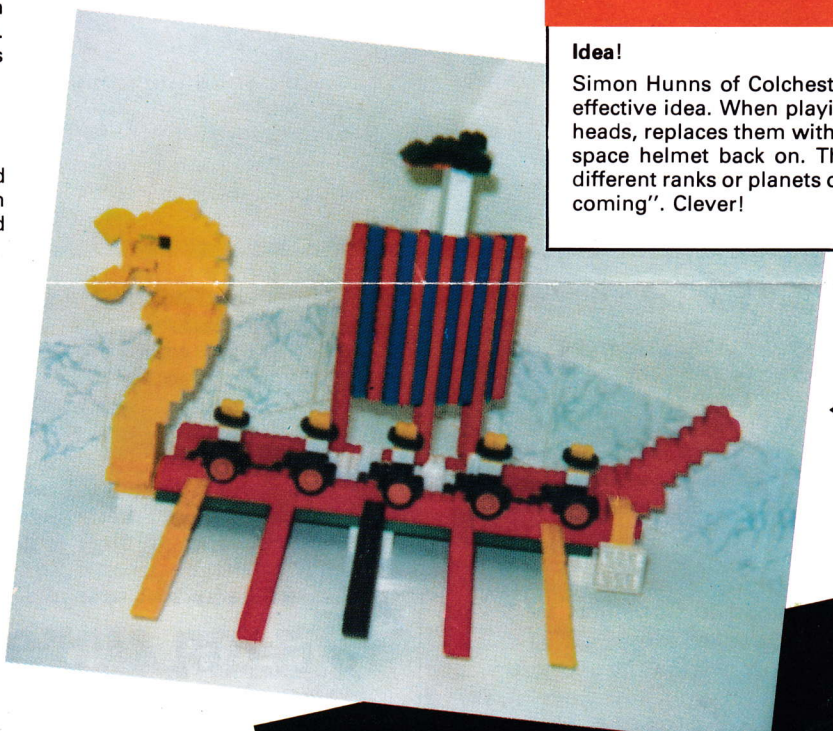
A "golden" Master Builder Badg
to each of the members whose
are shown here. If you h
photograph of a special model,
in and you too could become a
Builder if your model is shown
next issue of *Bricks 'n Pieces*.

Idea!

Simon Hunns of Colchester wins a Ma
effective idea. When playing with his L
heads, replaces them with a transparen
space helmet back on. This gives his
different ranks or planets of origin. "Loo
coming". Clever!

Football Stadium

Angus Lund of Wendover is 7 and admits his Dad helped a bit with this super model. It is not an original idea but it is splendidly detailed and realistic.



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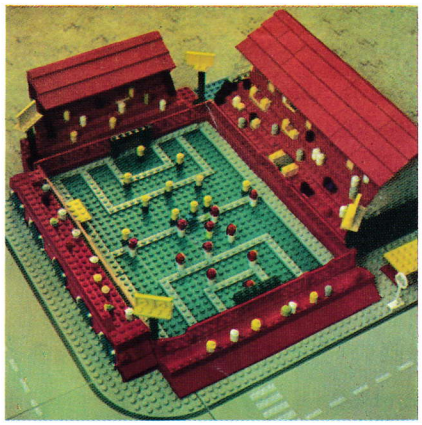

Grand Piano

Mr. Barnes of Stroud is not a Club Member, but we thought you'd like to see this model.
Mr. Barnes is blind so his family help him to select the colours and shapes he needs.
Just imagine what it would be like, trying to build a model with your eyes shut. Amazing!

Mothers Day Card

Elspeth Robson of Derby sent photographs of 5 models but we especially liked this card on the breakfast-in-bed tray complete with snowdrops. Notice how the card is hinged. Inside it reads (in LEGO bricks) "To Mummy". A very nice thought, Elspeth.

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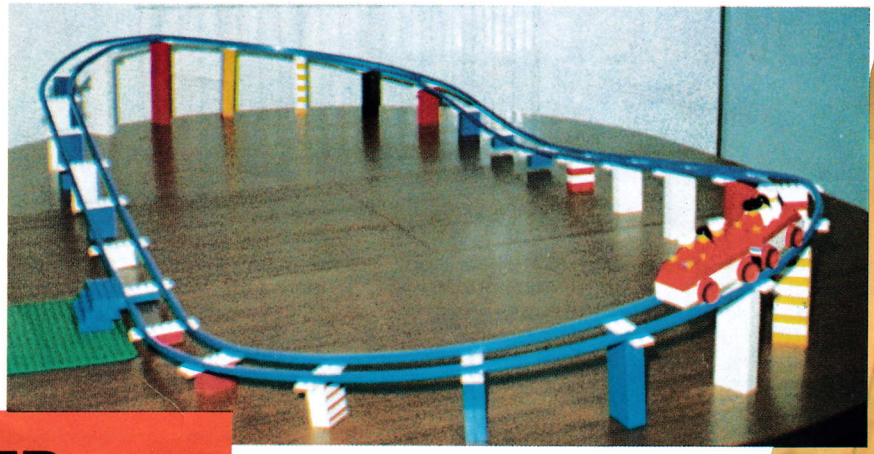

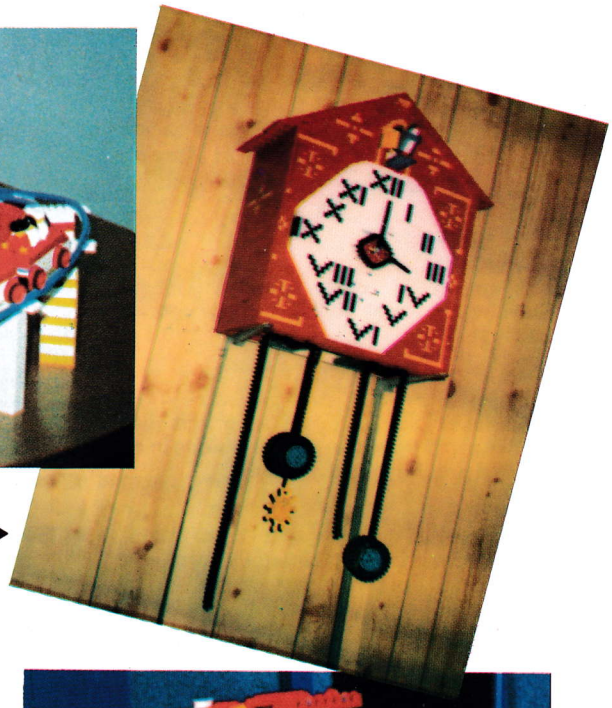

Cuckoo Clock

Michael Huckstep (16) of Oxford had a model in the last Newsletter, but this clock is so good we had to include him again. It actually tells the time, the pendulums swing and the cuckoo really does pop out on the hour. Fantastic!

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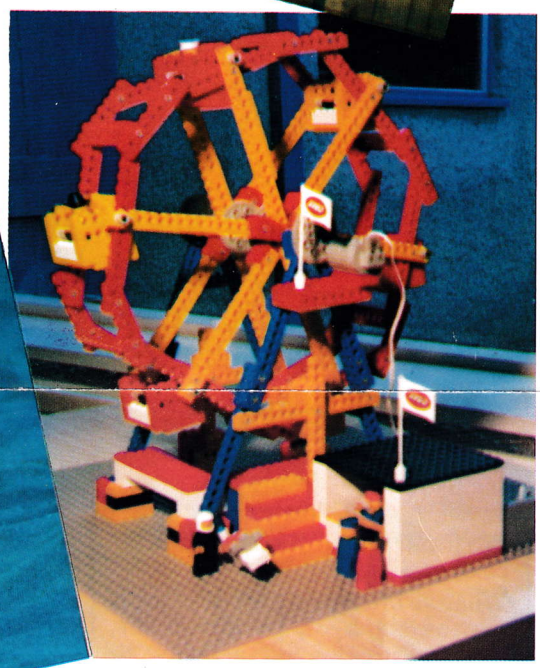
LEGO Master Builder

ter Builder badge for this simple but GOLAND Spacemen, he removes the red or green round brick and puts the pacemen coloured visors to identify out! The dreaded Red Visor Men are



Ferris Wheel

Stuart Macfarlane (9) of Paisley has used his LEGO Technical Sets to build this powered model of a fairground wheel, complete with paydesk at the entrance.

Pollution Patrol Vessel

Antony Paget and his sister, of Hassocks built this very original model. Notice the long "booms" for spraying detergent on oil slicks, the scoop for taking samples of sea water and the captain in his rotating cockpit so he can get a good view all round.

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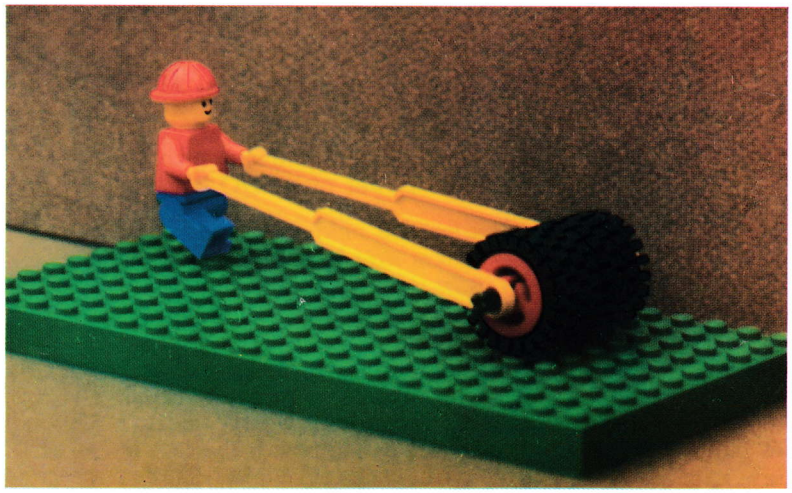
Lucas (8) of built this p. The ical-grab nakes very aws for the ow.

Rocket & Gantry

Paul Budgen of Rochdale seems to have reached for the stars with this model. Not only is it very tall but the gantry crawler is motorised too, just like the real thing.



Groundsman

Here is further proof that you don't have to build huge models to win a Master Builders badge. Michael Haward of Woking is 6¼ but already has a sharp eye. He must have spotted a groundsman rolling a cricket pitch with a giant roller and thought "Aha . . . .!"

MOSAICS COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to all of you who sent in designs and photographs of mosaics. Hundreds of them, which made it very hard to decide the winners but after much sorting and discussion, these are the ones we liked best. LEGO sets and Master Builder badges go to the following:

Over 9 Years

(a) First Prize

Boeing 747 by Julian James (11½) of Steyning. A most stylish design and an unusual shape.

(a) Second

Tropical birds by Richard Austin (14) of Abertillery. Like Julian's Boeing, this also breaks away from the usual rectangle in an original and imaginative way.

(c) Third

My House by Peter Schwartz (13) of Bristol. A simple idea, but it is the details like the fire escape, half open windows and the dog by the door which makes it special.

Under 9 years

(d) First Prize

Safari by Jimmy Day (6½) of Grimsby. Jimmy says lions are his favourite animal and he doesn't approve of hunting them but he "thought it would make a good picture". It does! The gear wheel sun and the edgeways-on slimbricks for grass are very neat.

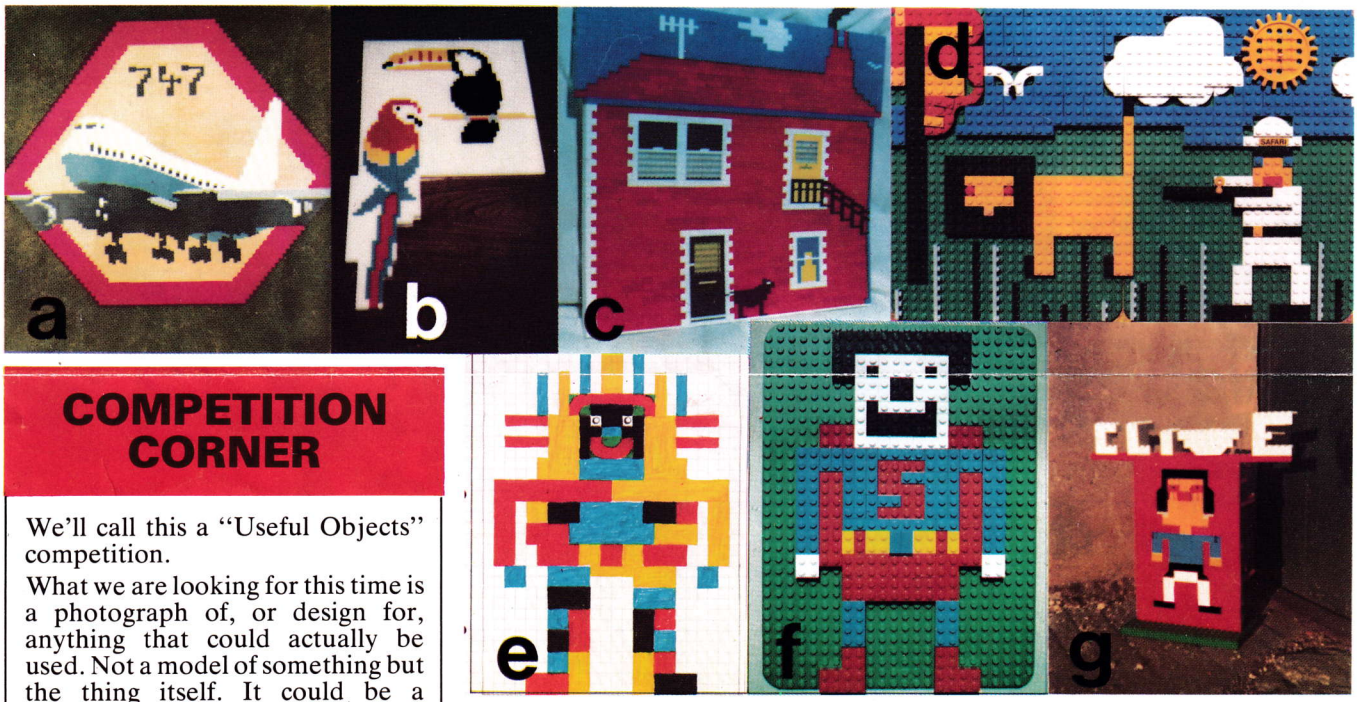
(e) Second

Indian Chief by David Murray (7) of Insch. A colourful design with great vitality. We especially like his feathered head-dress.

(f) Third

Superman by Kenneth Loveday (7) of Sanderstead. We hope Kenneth won't mind, but we chose this because it made us laugh. When we thought of the muscular hero of the comic strips, Kenneth's version looks so happy and friendly.

(g) **A special award for sheer cheek!** Richard Thompson (7) of Oswestry gets a Master Builder badge for his "portrait" of Clive Nicholls our Club President, even though *he* says it doesn't look a bit like him!



COMPETITION CORNER

We'll call this a "Useful Objects" competition.

What we are looking for this time is a photograph of, or design for, anything that could actually be used. Not a model of something but the thing itself. It could be a pot-plant holder, a pencil box, a place mat or a paper bin. What about book ends, a nest-box for birds, perhaps even a spice-rack (provided it could be strong enough!). Anything that you could actually use around the home, at school or in the garden.

Look around for ideas and you will be surprised at how many things you can make.

Again there will be two age groups, over 9 years and under 9 years, so be sure to put your age on your entry. But this time the prizes will be a copy of your design, built by the LEGO model designer David Lyall, and glued together so that you can actually keep the object without losing the use of your LEGO bricks!

Send your entries to LEGO U.K. Ltd. (Club Competition) Wrexham, Clwyd LL13 9UH.

Closing date is 15th January 1980.

TOTEM POLE IN BIRMINGHAM

This huge totem pole was one of the many astonishing models built by visitors to the "Children Build" exhibition held during the Summer at the Birmingham Museum. There were over 23,000 visitors to the exhibition during the five weeks it ran, breaking all attendance records. That's the power of LEGO play for you!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Some members have written asking if their Club membership has finished. The answer is, don't worry, because you will get a letter with the last of your three Bricks 'n Pieces newsletters reminding you when your year's membership is about to end and telling you how you can become a "Key Member" by staying on for a second year.